



Online Maps: *Arcanum* Maps

“How to” Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

November 2021

GOAL

This guide will teach you how to use the online maps on the *Arcanum* website.

INTRODUCTION

Arcanum Maps offers many 18th- and 19th-century maps of the Habsburg Empire and its successor states, including military survey, cadastral, and city maps. A selection of maps of other parts of Europe and the United States can also be found at this website. Maps can help you locate places and provide geographical context for where your ancestors lived. Historical maps can also help identify historical names and jurisdictions.

HOW TO

- Access *Arcanum* Maps at www.maps.arcanum.com
- The site is available in German, English, and Hungarian. Change the language in the dropdown box located in the bottom right corner of the webpage.

Overview of home page

The Maps website offers the following five map categories:

- *Maps of Europe*—three maps of Europe from the 18th and 19th centuries. The image associated with each map title shows which parts of Europe are included.
- *City maps*—city maps of many larger European cities.
- *Country maps*—maps of many European countries, as well as a historical map of the United States of America.
- *Cadastral maps*—maps of parts of the Habsburg Empire.
- *Thematic maps*—administrative, ethnic, and denomination maps of Hungary.

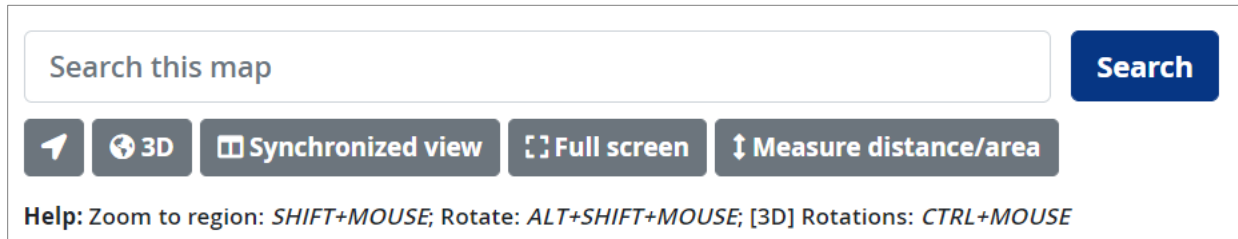
Place search

1. Select one of the five map categories.
2. Select a map of interest within the chosen category. Some categories may have sub-categories requiring additional selection steps to reach the maps search page.
3. Enter a place name in the search box located below the map. Diacritics (e.g., š, é, ä, ü) are not required.

Example: If you want to find **München**, it also works to type **Munchen** into the search box.

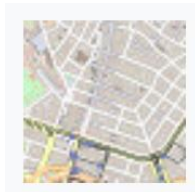
The map **search page** includes the search box (below the map) and other tools (either below the map or in the top right corner of the map).

Tools below the map:

A screenshot of the map search page tools bar. It features a search box with the placeholder text "Search this map" and a blue "Search" button. Below the search box are five buttons: a compass icon, a "3D" button with a globe icon, a "Synchronized view" button with a double-map icon, a "Full screen" button with a full-screen icon, and a "Measure distance/area" button with a double-headed arrow icon. Below these buttons is a line of help text: "Help: Zoom to region: SHIFT+MOUSE; Rotate: ALT+SHIFT+MOUSE; [3D] Rotations: CTRL+MOUSE".

- Search box—enter a place name to find it on the map.
- 3D View—view maps in 3D (not available for all maps). Manipulate the map with **CTRL + mouse**.
- Synchronized view—select this option to view historical and modern maps side-by-side. Click on “Single view” to exit the synchronized view.
- Full screen—select this option to view the map in full screen. Press the **Esc** key to exit the full-screen view.
- Measure distance/area—measure the distance between locations and to measure an area.
- Base maps—select a modern map (street or aerial view) when using the synchronized view or opacity tool.

street view



aerial view



- Related maps—view a list of maps related to the selected map.
- Info—view additional information about some maps—e.g., see links to map legends for cadastral and thematic maps.

Tools in the top right corner of the map:

A screenshot of the map opacity and more maps controls. It shows a label "Opacity:" followed by a gray slider bar. To the right of the slider is a "100%" label. Further right is a blue button with a double-map icon and the text "More maps".

- Opacity—slide the gray bar to the left to increase transparency (i.e., to see the map underneath).
- More maps—view other maps that include the section of map currently being viewed.

Synchronized view

1. While viewing your selected map, click on “Synchronized view.” The historical map will now appear on the left half of the computer screen.
2. Click on one of the base maps under “Base maps” to select a modern map for comparison. The modern map will appear on the right half of the screen.
3. While in synchronized view, any manipulation (e.g., moving the map, zooming in/out) applied to one map will simultaneously be applied to the other.
4. To exit the synchronized view, click on the “Single view” button below the search bar.

Measure distance/area

1. While viewing your selected map, click on “Measure distance/area.” Note: The metric measurement system is used.
2. A small circle will appear next to the cursor. Also, a dropdown box will appear at the top of the map showing the default selection *Distance*. The other option is *Area*. To select *Area*, click on the down arrow and then click on *Area*.
3. Once a measurement selection is made, click on the desired starting point, and move the small circle to the destination or a place of interest along the way (a waypoint). A black dashed line will be drawn as the circle is moved.
4. After arriving at a waypoint, click *once* to mark the waypoint, then continue moving the small circle to the destination or to capture an area.
5. When measuring an area, at least two waypoints, not in a direct line, need to be created.
6. Upon reaching the destination or identifying the area, *double* click to finish drawing. The black dashed line will turn into a solid yellow line
7. For distance measurement—the total distance will appear in a yellow box at the last waypoint.
8. For area measurement—the total area will appear in a yellow box inside the white area outlined by the yellow lines.
9. Multiple distance and area measurements can be made on the same map.
10. To clear the measurements and exit the measuring tool, click on the “X” next to the dropdown box at the top of the map.

Opacity

1. Use the Opacity tool to view maps layered on top of each other.
2. While viewing your selected map, select a modern map under “Base maps” for comparison. The historical map will overlay the modern map.
3. Click on the gray percentage box in the top right corner of the map; drag the box slowly to the left.
4. As you move the box to the left, the opacity percentage decreases (increasing the transparency), and the modern map starts to appear below the historical map. At 100% only the historical map is visible. At 0% only the modern map is visible.

Cadastral maps

Cadastral maps show real estate, property, and land boundaries. These maps can help in locating and identifying property owned by ancestors.

1. Select the *Cadastral maps* category.
2. Enter a place name in the search box.

Note: Currently, cadastral maps are only available for most of modern-day Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, and Croatia, as well as parts of Montenegro, Ukraine, and Romania.

3. Zoom in to read the numbers and occasional names marked on the map.

PRACTICE

1. Go to www.maps.arcanum.com
2. Select the *Maps of Europe* category.
3. Select the *Europe in the XIX. century* map.
4. Below the map, type the city name Ljubljana and hit "Search."
5. Below the map, click on "Synchronized view" and select the left (street view) base map.
6. Zoom in to view details of the city.
7. What is the historic name of the city of Ljubljana? **Laibach**
8. What is the distance between Ljubljana's *Bahnhof* (train station) and the village of Muste? **about 3.1 km**
9. Click on the far left "Maps" option at the top of the page to return to the home page.
10. Select the *City maps* category.
11. Select "Citta di Venezia (1729, 1838-1846)" then select the "Venice (1729)" map.
12. Select the right (aerial view) base map.
13. Click on the map and drag it to the right and down until the words "SACCA DI S. CHIARA" are visible in the water, to the northwest of the starting point.
14. In the top right corner of the map, move the gray percentage box to the left to engage the opacity tool.
15. What is located on the modern map in the same area as the words "SACCA DI S. CHIARA" on the historic map? **a train station (several railroad tracks)**
16. At the top left of the page, click on the second "Maps" option (the one with an arrow next to it) and select the *Cadastral maps* category from the dropdown box.
17. Click on *Habsburg Empire - Cadastral maps (XIX. century)*.
18. Enter **Uebelbach** into the search box and click on "Search."
19. Zoom in to view details of the town.
20. What is the name of the river flowing through the town? **Übelbach**
21. What colors represent buildings? **pink and yellow**

22. What is the difference between the pink and yellow buildings? (Hint: Click on the linked **Legend** below the map, under “Info.” Look for symbols below *Gebäude*.) pink = *Steinerne* [made of stone], yellow = *Hölzerne* [made of wood]
23. What is the area measurement for the orchard (rounded trees) plot #954? (Located to the right of the city center, partially above the river name) about 6372.63 m²

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.